REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated December 6, 2010. Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 9, 13, 15 to 17, 21, 27 and 33 to 65 are pending in the application of which Claims 1, 7 and 13 are independent. Claims 60 to 65 are newly added. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 13, 27, 35, 42 to 44 and 55 to 59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. With conceding the correctness of the rejection, Applicant has amended the claims to clarify that they are directed to a non-transitory computer-readable storage medium. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 16, 21, 27, 33 to 35, 45, 47 to 50, 52 to 55 and 57 to 59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,159,190 (Perry). Claims 5, 17, 46, 51 and 56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Perry and further in view of prior art. Claims 15, 21 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentbale over Perry and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,724,492 (Iwase). Claims 36 to 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Perry and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,621,590 (Livingston). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

The present claims concern setting printer settings by a printer control apparatus using a setting screen to set a print attribute to be applied to the print data and a partial setting screen to set a partial print attribute to be applied to a part of the print data. In one aspect, the printer control apparatus displays a setting screen to set a print attribute to be applied to the print data and then displays a partial setting screen including (i) a first

designation field to set a partial print attribute to be applied to a part of the print data, and (ii) a second designation field to designate a page as the part of the print data to which the partial print attribute is applied. Since an initial value of the first designation field in the partial setting screen indicates that a print attribute that is the same as the entire print attribute is already set, it is not required that the user reenter a partial attribute which has the same value as the print setting attribute.

Turning to specific claim language, independent Claim 1 is directed to a printing control method executed in an information processing apparatus which has a printer driver to generate print data which a printing apparatus can process, the printing control method comprising: a first displaying step of displaying an entire setting screen to set an entire print attribute to be applied to entire print data; a changing step of changing a first print attribute which is an initial value of the entire setting screen displayed in the first displaying step for a second print attribute; a second displaying step of displaying a partial setting screen including (i) a first designation field to set a partial print attribute to be applied to a part of the entire print data, (ii) a second designation field to designate a page as the part of the entire print data to which the partial print attribute is applied, wherein the second print attribute for the entire print data changed in the changing step is displayed on the partial setting screen before user sets the partial print attribute; and a generating step of generating the print data based on the entire print attribute and the partial print attribute.

Applicant submits that Perry fails to disclose the features of the present claims. In particular, Perry fails to disclose or suggest displaying an entire setting screen to set an entire print attribute to be applied to entire print data, changing a first print attribute which is an initial value of the displayed entire setting screen for a second print attribute, and displaying a partial setting screen including (i) a first designation field to set

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a partial print attribute to be applied to a part of the entire print data, (ii) a second

designation field to designate a page as the part of the entire print data to which the partial

print attribute is applied, wherein the second print attribute changed for the entire print data

is displayed on the partial setting screen before user sets the partial print attribute.

In contrast, Perry discloses generation of a print job containing print job

level properties and print job execution attributes. Perry further discloses Figs. 6A to 6D

that are exemplary displays of a print job exceptions attributes window 406 that can be

used to edit print job exceptions attributes. As illustrated in FIG. 6A of Perry, a user can

access the second exception page template 317 that allows editing of specific print job

exceptions attributes by selecting tabs 318 to 321 on the template 317. The second

exception page template 317 can include various tabs with labels that identify the print job

exceptions attributes for a selected print job identification number or print job name. For

example, the second exception page template 317 in FIG. 6A provides tabs that include

attributes such as stock 318, output 319, image quality 310 and image edit 321. Fig. 6A

illustrates selection of stock tab 318, Fig. 6B, selecting an image quality tab 320, Fig. 6C

illustrates selection of an output tab 319, and Fig. 6D illustrates selection of an edit tab

321. (See Perry column 7, lines 18 to 45.)

Therefore, Figs 6A to 6D of Perry simply illustrate a single step of

designating various attributes of a print job and do not disclose or suggest changing a first

attribute of the entire print data to a second attribute to second attribute, and then

displaying a partial setting screen including (i) a first designation field to set a partial print

attribute to be applied to a part of the entire print data, (ii) a second designation field to

designate a page as the part of the entire print data to which the partial print attribute is

applied, wherein the second print attribute changed for the entire print data is displayed on

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the partial setting screen before user sets the partial print attribute. For example, according to Fig 6A of Perry, although "Plain" is displayed as a paper type, it is not disclosed that the value "Plain" is an initial value of the paper type setting. In addition, even if the value "Plain" set as a paper type is an initial value of the setting, it is not disclosed that the value "Plain" is set as the paper type in the entire print setting. Therefore, even if a value such as "Heavy paper" is set as an entire print setting in a system according to Perry, the value "Plain" is still displayed as the initial value of the paper type, as shown in Fig. 6A of Perry. In other words, setting the attribute of "Heavy paper" as shown in Fig. 6A of Perry is not at all analogous to the "second print attribute" of the present claims. This is because the setting is not first set to an initial value for the entire print data, and then displayed again in a second display step for changing to another attribute value for a particular page as featured in Claim 1.

In light of the deficiencies in Perry, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Claims 7, 11 and 13 are directed to an apparatus, a system and a computer-readable storage medium, respectively, substantially in accordance with the method of Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 7, 11 and 13 are also in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In this regard, newly added Claim 63 to 65 feature receiving through the partial setting screen an instruction for setting a partial print attribute to a page other than the designated page after the third print attribute has been set as the partial print attribute set to the designated page in the second designation field, wherein the changed second print attribute set to the entire print data is displayed on the partial setting screen to be displayed before the partial print attribute to be set to the page other than the designated page is received from the user. By virtue of this feature, the user is not required to operate a user interface, such as the setting screen, to go back to the previous screen for setting the partial print setting to a page other than the designated page. By way of example and not of limitation, referring to Figs. 6 and 7 of the present application, the reception feature of Claims 63 to 65 is initiated by the button 702 displayed on the user interface shown in Fig. 7. By use of the button 702, the user is not required to go back to the screen shown in Fig. 6 for setting the partial print setting to a page different from the designated page. Such a feature is not at all suggested or disclosed by Perry.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

CONCLUSION

Any fees believed to be due are being paid concurrently herewith. The Director is hereby authorized to credit any fee overpayment, or charge any fee underpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1205.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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